SERVICE LEARNING SITES

& OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Site:

Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota

555 Park Street, Suite 410,

St. Paul, MN 55103

Volunteer Duties & Activities:

To produce a one minute video piece on a subject determined by CDF-MN (which ended up to be public services and spaces that taxes pay for). I would be responsible for doing the photography and editing of the video, as well as meeting on-camera people coordinated by CDF-MN. Along with working on another proposed project that we mutually agreed to put aside, I spent roughly thirty hours completing this video.

Requirements to Volunteer at Site:

There were no stated requirements to volunteer. However my prior experience in video production led to doing this type of project as opposed to something like organizing their stock photos via Flickr. They did mention that their volunteers and interns are undergraduates at the youngest.

Relation to Libraries & Social Justice:

This video highlighted many of the important public spaces and services accessible to anyone in a community regardless of class and this included libraries. It also can be used as promotional material to highlight the need to eradicate child poverty in Minnesota by taking the approach of showing a viewer how they are already helping. The ties specifically to libraries are somewhat indirect as the main focus was to highlight an issue related to child poverty in Minnesota.

Would you recommend this Service Learning opportunity to others?

Why or why not?:

Yes, but that also depends on what one wants to get out of it. My project was somewhat frustrating at times due to our differences in experience making videos. Sometimes I felt they were asking too much of me while I’m certain they thought I didn’t have enough to do and they wanted me to get the most out of the experience. These were basic and common communication issues that were resolved easily. CDF-MN does have other volunteer opportunities for students interested in media and are willing to work with various experience and interest levels.

Who should consider this opportunity?

Those interested in media or those who have a media background. While it may not be necessary for a student to be good at working with children, they should at least be passionate and open to collaboration when dealing with assisting an organization that is trying to eradicate child poverty.

How to get involved:

I emailed Miriam West, the Technology Director of CDF-MN, as she was listed as the contact person on the request form for volunteer help. She got back to be within a few days and we had an in-person meeting shortly thereafter.

Best Contact Person at site –

I ended up working with Kara Arzamendia most directly.

Best Contact Number for site –

Kara’s number is 651-855-1184.

Miriam’s number is 651-855-1182.

Address of site –

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